



*Tipping  
snow into  
Cam at  
Quayside  
1963*

91.10

#### **c.44.6 : Quayside**

1892

Cambridge Electric Supply Company established, begin construction of power station at Thompson's Lane, Magdalene College objections unsuccessful [P14]

1897 09 04

An extraordinary general meeting of the Cambridge Electric Supply co. Ltd was held at the Company's offices, Thompson's Lane, Cambridge. The chairman reported that their first capital had been £40,000 which had been spent on plant and the necessary things to equip the station. They had gone over that and had borrowed £2,250 from the bank. The business of the company was increasing and the capital must be increased too. Now was the time for shareholders to reap the reward of their enterprise if the use of electric light became universal in Cambridge 1897 08 04

**1900**

1902 03 20 c

Cambridge councillors considered possible sites for public baths, including Mackenzie Road, Quayside and Castle Street. The most suitable is Christ's Pieces. In order to provide a good swimming bath, length baths, a Turkish bath installation, together with boilers etc a sum of £8,000 would have to be expended, exclusive of the purchase of the site. £500 a year would be required for maintenance. In view of the half-hearted character of the public meeting they could not recommend expenditure of so large a sum of money

1902 09 29

A fire did considerable damage at 30 Bridge Street, Cambridge, a University lodging house situated close to the Quayside. The only fire in the house was a small one in the grate of the back sitting room on the ground floor, but this room was not damaged. In the front room most of the furniture was consumed and the walls and ceiling badly burned. The fire broke out close to a gas pipe and although the grate contained paper, sticks and coal laid in the usual way, the fire only scorched the paper.

Sir – Cambridge Corporation have instructed all persons in the out-lying parts to telephone the Central Fire Station in case of fire. We in Chesterton are in a very awkward position. We have no telephones for public use. The nearest fire alarm post is at Quayside and one would have to walk, run or cycle there, and then fumble about in a very poor light trying to find out how to work the apparatus. We need a telephone call office instead. A doctor might be sent for, goods ordered from various tradesmen or one might even ring up his best girl – Philip Clare 12 04 19f

## **1920**

1923 02 01

Speaking at the annual dinner of the Cambridge Motor Boat Club was held at Matthew's Café, Cambridge, the Mayor said he had often, when walking on the tow path, looked at the "motorists of the Cam" with envying eyes. He had thought what a lazy lot of chaps they were. (Laughter). But he had also thought what a jolly good time they were having. The Town Council had just become Conservators of the Cam. The Bill was an accomplished fact, and no doubt those present were looking to the Council to use a magic wand and make an ideal waterway of the river at once. (Hear, hear). If those who were motorists of the Cam could hand over to the Council about £20,000, he thought the Council could manage that. His recollection went back over 50 years when it was a highway of commerce. The quayside in Bridge Street was lined up with 20 or 30 barges containing coal, stone, wool and food. A great deal of employment was found on that quayside; many hundreds used to be employed there

1923 11 21

Mr R C Pierce the manager of the Cambridge electricity Supply Company said that there was there had been three central generating stations built in 1891 of which Cambridge was one. They were built to prove that the turbines could work for in those days everyone was afraid because of the speed of the machine. The dynamos gave trouble and used to burn out at inconvenient moments. Cambridge started in 1892 and was run by very carefully trained men whose motto was "Never mind what happens, keep it going". Some people thought that the power in the town was very costly but it compared favourably with others of the same kind 23 11 21

1926 11 24

The Cambridge Electricity Supply Company is one of the oldest in the country, having been formed in 1892. It was the first in the world to adopt condensing steam turbines, now used everywhere in all large electricity generating stations. A suitable site for the generating station had to be found where large quantities of water for condensing were available and as the Corporation had insisted this should be within the Borough the site on Quayside was chosen. By 1900 the site was too cramped and is now somewhat obsolete. They must decide whether to provide an up-to-date generating station or purchase a bulk supply from elsewhere.

1927 07 07

The Conservators of the River Cam considered a scheme to make the river navigable for cargo boats up to the Quayside near Magdalene Bridge. Mr Banham had recently bought a vessel for conveying cargo and at present it can only come as far as Jesus Lock. There had been no traffic for years and the state of the river was very bad. There was a possibility that the river could be dredged but the Commons Committee had taken a lot of trouble to make Jesus Green a beauty spot and would not sanction the deposit being placed on the Common.

1929 02 14

For the first time since 1895 there was skating on the River Cam. A thick sheet of ice powered with white snow, stretched unbroken from Silver Street to the electric light works. It was too inviting to be resisted and several skating parties took advantage of it. Many undergraduates took to the ice in front of King's College and at Quayside a man was seen cycling on the slippery surface. However the ice bore and he neither came off nor went in. At Silver Street it was possible to cross to the mill on the ice

but below Jesus Lock, where the dredges is at work, the ice was broken up by the flow and black pools and crevices had appeared in the thin surface.

### **1930**

1930 03 31

Perhaps fired by childhood memories of Blondin, the famous tightrope walker, a young man attempted the perilous crossing of the River Cam in the wee small hours of the morning. Unfortunately his skill and possibly his sobriety were not equal to his enthusiasm. He first demonstrated his agility by climbing the lamp-post at the end of the bridge then wandered three paces along the parapet of Magdalene Bridge before sliding gracefully into the watery depths beneath. Although able to swim he was exhausted by the time he reached Quayside and it took the combined efforts of his companions and a policeman to get him out, wetter but slightly more sober. 30 03 31

### **1940**

1945 05 02

Airman Saves Child. Prompt action on Sunday by an R.A.F. man saved the life of Janet Chapman, aged 2½, of 3 Gloucester Street, Cambridge, She was in a pram in charge of her elder brother near Quayside when it started to run down some steps and the child was thrown out of the pram into the river. Maurice Frederick Buy, the airman, dived fully clothed into the river, rescuing the child. After treatment she was allowed to go home. 45 05 02

1947 12 03

It was a bewildering experience to visit the Cambridge Electric Supply Company's power station, Thompson's Lane, during one of yesterday's peak periods. Bewildering because of the steady hum of the generating plant, the mass of gauges and dials, the terrific heat thrown out as the inspection doors in the coal-burning "stokers" were opened and because of the comparatively small number of men engaged in controlling this veritable image of machinery. While the bulk of Cambridge's power is generated at the station a proportion comes off the nationally controlled "grid - 47 12 03

***1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings from this date***

### **1960**

1961 07 26

Scudamore's boat yard at Quayside is experimenting with a prototype fibreglass punt, the first of its kind in Cambridge. The red-and-blue punt with its yellow cushions is much livelier and virtually impossible to overturn or sink. Built in Hull it costs £110, the same as a wooden punt, but the cost of maintenance is much lower. If it proves a success there will be a gradual take-over from the traditional mahogany boats. Scudamore's already have several fibreglass dinghies and other boat yards have similar canoes 61 07 26

1962 01 02

Clearing snow St Andrews Street & dumping it at Quayside – photos – 62 01 02b

1965 07 08

Thompson's Lane power station to close March 1966 [2.2]

1966 04 01

Electricity power station Quayside wreathed in scaffolding prior demolition – photo – 66 04 01

### **1970**

1972 03 24

Rose Crescent traffic ban & Quayside, p37

## **1980**

1981 07 24

Quayside plans, p16

1984 01 07

Quayside plan, p1

1984 12 05

KP Professional Sales started in 1968 when its position on King's Parade was ideal for building up business with university departments. But it outgrew its space in the KP Camera Shop, moving to Sussex Street and then Quayside before opening new premises in Clifton Road. It supplies Government departments, the armed forces and a host of professional photographers who need a vital piece of equipment at the last minute. There is a lot of new electronic equipment but as far as taking pictures is concerned Ian Bedson, the managing director, doesn't envisage any major innovation. 84 12 05 & a

1985 07 25

Quayside will be transformed with new shops, office buildings, a restaurant and a café with tables spilling outside into the square. Magdalene College's planned development will change the face of one of the city's most important riverside sites. Punting and public rights of way will be retained as will the newly-created cantilevered walkway linking Bridge Street with Jesus Green. The design by Hughes and Bicknell and will be built in narrow two-inch red bricks to match those of the college. 85 07 25a

1985 09 11

A massive £2 million shops, offices and leisure complex has been thrown out by Cambridge planners – by just one vote. Magdalene College wanted to develop the riverside area of Quayside, Bridge Street and Thompson's Lane with a three-storey building and a development that would include shops, offices, restaurant, café, residential accommodation and a research and development base. Café tables would have spilled out into a square fronting the river. But residents objected, fearing extra traffic and councillors thought it too 'heavily massed' 85 09 11

1985 10 18

Iron foundries on Quayside side – history 85 10 18

1986 06 06

Cambridge's latest high-tech office block on the corner of Newmarket Road and Coldham's Lane is called The Zigzag because of the beams used in its construction. It has been designed by Roger Perrin Architects of Quayside whose associated firm Tartan Buildings are in charge of the development. The 13,000 sq foot building is due for completion next month 86 06 06a

1988 02 12

Work begins on Quayside redevelopment – 88 02 12a

1988 07 01

Consulting engineers Peter Dann and Partners celebrated its silver jubilee with a ball at St John's College. It has been involved with extensions at many colleges and University buildings, including the Fitzwilliam Museum, and is now working on prestigious flats at Beauford Place, Quayside, where they are building over the electricity sub-station to provide ground floor shops and a courtyard with offices above. They are also involved in the Docklands redevelopment in London 88 07 01 & a

1990 07 18

Quayside shops and office development formally opened by Duke of Edinburgh – 90 07 18a